



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NORTH DAKOTA JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

FARGO, N.D. January 31, 2018 - All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2018 totaled 70,000 head, up 4,000 from last year, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Breeding sheep inventory totaled 49,000 head, down 3,000 from last year and is a record low. Ewes one year and older totaled 39,000 head, down 3,000 from the previous year and is a record low. Rams one year and older totaled 2,000, unchanged from last year. Total replacement lambs totaled 8,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 21,000 head, up 7,000 from last year. A total of 1,000 head were mature sheep (one year and older) while the remaining 20,000 were under one year. Market lamb weight groups were estimated as follows: 4,000 lambs were under 65 pounds; 5,000 were 65-84 pounds; 6,000 were 85-105 pounds; 5,000 were over 105 pounds.

The 2017 lamb crop totaled 49,000 head, down 2,000 from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 117 per 100 ewes one year and older, compared with 116 in 2016.

Sheep deaths totaled 2,000 head, down 500 from 2016 and is a record low. **Lamb deaths** totaled 6,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered on farm totaled 700 head, up 200 from 2016.

Shorn wool production during 2017 was 435,000 pounds, up 5,000 from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 62,000 head, up 3,000 from 2016. **Weight per fleece** was 7.0 pounds, down 0.3 from last year. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.09 per pound, compared with \$1.13 in 2016. The total value of wool produced in North Dakota was 474,000 dollars in 2017.

Access the national report at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/SheeGoat/2010s/2018/SheeGoat-01-31-2018.pdf>

Access the National Livestock Executive Briefing at:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/Executive_Briefings/2018/01-31-2018.pdf

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